sister! I didn't know you had a sister. And any-how, I haven't come to see your sister, but your-self. And I'd better go to the Randolph straight. I'm sure, because I shall feel more at home there. You can come round and see me whenever you like, there; and I mean you to show me all Oxford, now I've come here, that's certain.'

I glaneed furtively at the open-eared undergraduates, and felt that the game was really up. I could never face them again. I must resign everything, take orders, and fly to a country rectory. At least, I thought so on the spur of the moment.

But something must clearly be done. I couldn't stand and argue out the case with Ida before those twelve young fiends, now reinforced by a group of porters; and I determined to act strategically—that is to say, tell a white lie. 'You can go to the Randolph, of course, if you wish, Miss Van Rensselaer,' I said; 'Will you come and show me which is your luggage? Here, you sir,' to one of the porters,—a little angrily, I fear,—'come and get this lady's boxes, will you?"

In a minute, I had secured the boxes, and went out for a cab. There was nothing left but a single hansom. Demoralized as I was, I took it, and out Ida inside, 'Drive to Lechlade Villa, the Parks,' I whispered to the cabby—that was Annie's address—and I jumped in beside my torturer. As we drove up by the Cornmarket, I could see the porters and scouts of Balliol and John's all looking eagerly out at the unwonted sight of a Senior Proctor in full academicals, driving through the streets of Oxford in a hansom cab, with a lady by his side. As for Ida, she remained happily unconscious, though I blamed her none the less or it. In her native wilds I knew that such vagaries were permitted by the rules of society: but she ought surely to have known that in Europe they were not admissible.

Now, Miss Van Rensselaer,' I said, as we turned the corner of Carfax.'I am taking you to my sister's. Excuse my frankness if I tell you that, according to English, and especially to Oxford etiquette, it would n

'Well, no,' said Ida promptly; 'I think you are a dreadfully suspicious people; you seem always to credit everybody with the worst motives. In America, we think people mean no harm, and don't look after them so sharply as you do. But I really can't go to your sister's. I don't know her, and I haven't been invited. Does she know I'm coming?' 'Well, I can't say she does,'I answered hesitatingly 'You see, your letter only reached me haif an hour ago, and I had no time to see her before I went to meet you.'
'Then I certainly won't go, Mr. Payne, that's certain,'
'But, my dear Miss Van Reneselacr...' Well, no, said Ida promptly; 'I think you are a

But, my dear Miss Van Rensselaer— 'But, my dear Miss Van Rensselaer—'
'Not the slightest use, I assure you. I can't go to a house where they don't even know I'm coming. Driver, will you go to the Randolph Hotet, please?' I sank back paralyzed and unwanned. This girl was one too many for me. 'Miss Van Rensselaer,' I cried, in a last despairing fit, 'do you know that as Senior Proctor of the University I have the power to order you away from Oxford; and that if I told them at the Kandolph not to take you in, they wouldn't dare to do it?'
'Well, really, Mr. Payne, I dare say you have some extraordinary mediaeval customs here, but you can hardly mean to send me away again by main force. I shall go to the Randolph.'
And she went, I had to draw up solemnly at the door, to accompany her to the office, and to see her safely provided with a couple of rooms before I could get away hastily to the Ancient House of Convocation, where public business was being delayed by my absence. As I hurried through the Schools

yourself!

'You're quite mistaken,' I answered eartly, for I wasn't going to be browbeaten in that way; 'and I mean to say nothing of the sort. What I did mean to say—and I'll trouble you to listen to it attentively—was just this: You seem to me about as well suited to my abstract requirements as any other young woman I have ever met; and if you're inclined to take me, we might possibly arrange an engagement'

other young woman I have ever met; and if you're inclined to take me, we might possibly arrange an engagement?

'What a funny man you are!'she went en innocently. 'You don't propose at all en regle. I ve had twelve men propose to me separately in a boat in. America, and you make up the baker's dozen; but all the other leaned forward lae kadaisically, dropped the oars when they were berimfing to get serious, and looked at me sentimentally; while you go on rowing all the time as if there was nothing unusual in it.

n it.'
Probably,' I suggested, 'your twelve American admirers attached more importance to the erremony if an I do. But you haven't answered my question

It an I do. But you haven't answered my question yet.'
Let me ask you one instead,' she said, mere seriously. 'Do you think I'm at all the kind of person for a Serior Proctor's wife t You say I suit your abstract requirements, but one can't get married in the abstract, you know. Viewed concretely, don't you fancy I'm about the most unsuitable helpmate you could possibly light upon t'.
'The profound consciousness of that indubitable fact,' I replied carelessly, 'has made me struggle in a hopeless sort of way against the irrestrible impulse to propose to you ever since I saw you first. But I suppose Senior Proctors are much the same as other men. They fly like moths about the candle, and can't overcome the temptation of singeing their wings.'

and can't overcome the temptation of singeling their wings.'

'If I had any notion of accepting you,' said Ida reflectively, 'I should at least have the consolation of knowing that you didn't make anything by your batgain; for my lifteen hundred dollars would just amount to the three hundred a year which you would have to give up with your fellowship.'

'Quite so,'I answered; 'I see you come of a business-like nation; and I, as former bursar of my college, am a man 'of business myself. So I have no reason for concealing from you the fact that I have a private income of about four hundred a year, besides University appointments worth five hundred more, which would not go with the fellowship.'

ship.'
' Do you really think me sordid enough to care for such considerations?

'If I did, I wouldn't have taken the trouble to tell you them. I merely mentioned the facts for their general interest, and not as bearing on the question

in hand.' .. Well, then, Mr. Payne, you shall have my an-

"Well, then, Mr. Payne, you shall have my answer.—No."
'Is it final?'
'Is anything human final, except one's twenty-ninth birthday? I choose it to be final for the present, and "the subject then dropped," as the papers say about debates in Congress. Let us have done now with this troublesome verb altogether, and conjugate our return to Oxford instead. See what bunches of fritillaries again! I never say anything prettier, except the orange lilies in New-Hampshire. If you like, you may come to America next season. You would enjoy our woodland.'
'Where shall I find you?'
'At Saratoga'

"When?"

'At Saratoga'

'When?"

'At Saratoga'

'When?"

'Any day from July the first,'

'Good,' I said, after a moment's reflection. 'If I stick to my fancy for flying into the
candle, you will see me there. If I change my mind,
it won't matter much to either of us.'

So we paddled back to Oxford, talking all the
way of indifferent subjects, of England and our
English villages, and enjoying the peaceful greenness of the trees and banks. It was half past six
when we got to Salter's barge, and I walked with
ida as far as the Randolph. Then I returned to
college, feeling very much like an undetected
sheep-stealer, and had a furtive sort of dinner
served up in my own room Next morning, I confess
it was with a sigh of relief that Annie and I saw

education in modern languages had been unfortu-nately neglected, or cise his companion's energetic mode of derving her supposed conjugal relation with him could hardly have appeared flattering to his vanity.

'My cousin has spoken of you to me, sir,' said Mr.

Hitchcock solemnly, 'I understand that you are one of the most distinguished luminaries of Oxford College, and I am proud to welcome you as such to

one of the most distinguished innuraries of Oxford College, and I am proud to welcome you as such to our country."

I bowed and laughed—I never feel capable of making any other reply than a bow and a laugh to the style of oratory peculiar to American grathemen—and then I turned to Ida. She was looking as pretty, as piquant, and as fresh as ever; but what her dress could mean was a complete puzzle to me. As she stood, diamonds and all, a leweller's assistant couldn't have valued her at a penny less that six hundred pound. In England such a display in horning dress would have been out of taste; but in Saratoga it seemed to be the height of the fashion.

We walked along toward the Grand Union Hotel, where Ida and her cousin were staving, and my astonishment grow jupon me at every step. However, we had so much to say to one another about everything in general, and Ida was so unaffectedly pleased at my keeping my engagement, made half in joke, that I found no time to unravel the mystery. When we reached the great doorway, Ida took leave of me for the time, but made me promise to call for her again carly the next morning. 'Unhappily,' she said, 'I have to go this afternoon to a most fedious party—a set of Boston people; you know the style; the best European culture, bottlied and corked as imported, and lot out again by driblets with about as much spontaneousness as champagne the see and day. But I must fulfill my social duties here; no canoeing on the Isis at Saratoga. However, we must see a great deal of you now that you've come; so I expect you to call, and drive me down to the lake at 10 o'clock tomorrew.'

'Is that proceeding within the expansive limits of

Is that proceeding within the expansive limits of

and drive me down to the lake at 10 o'clock tomorrow.'

'Is that proceeding within the expansive limits of
American proprieties!' I asseed dubiously.

'Sir,' said Mr. Hitchcock, answering for her, 't'sis
is a land of freedom, and every lady can go where
she chooses, unambested by those frivolous bonds of
conventionality which bind the feet of your European women as closely as the cramped shees of the
Chinese bind the feet of the celestial females.'

Ida smiled at me with a peculiar smale, waved her
hand graciously, and ran lightly up the stairs. I
was left on the piazza with Mr. Jefferson Hitchcock.
His conversation scarcely struck me as in itself
enticing, but I was anxious to find out the meaning
of Ida's sudden accession to wealth, and so I determined to make the best of his companionship for
half an hour. As a sure high road to the American
bosom and safe recommendation to the American
confidence, I ordered a couple of delectable summer
beverages (Mr. Hitchcock advised an 'eye-onener,'
which proved worthy of the commendation he beslowed upon it; and we sad down on the piazza in
two convenient rocking-chairs, under the shade
of the cims, smeking our Havanas and supping our
iced drink. After a hittle preliminary talk, I struck
out upon the subject of Ida.

'When I met Miss Van Rensselaer at Nice,' I
said, 'she was stopping al a very quiet little penaion. It is quite a different thing living in a palace
like this.'

'We are a republican nation, sir, answered Mr.
Hitchcock, and we expect to be all treated on the
equal level of a sovereign people. The splendor
that you in Europe restrict to princes, we in our
country lavish upon the humblest American citizen.
Miss Van Rensselaer's wealth, however, entitles
her to mix in the highest circles of even your most
polished society.'

'Indeed i' I said; 'I had no idea that she was

The control of the co

of the eims, smeking our Havanas and sipping our iced drink. After a little preliminary talk, I struck out upon the subject of Ida.

'When I met Miss Van Rensse'aer at Nice.' I said, 'she was stopping at a very quiet little pension. It is quite a different thing living in a palace like this.'

'We are a republican nation, sir, answered Mr. Hitchcock, and we expect to be all treated on the equal level of a sovereign people. The aplendor that you in Europe restrict to princes, we in our country lavish upon the humblest American citizen. Miss Van Rensselaer's wealth, however, entities her to mix in the highest circles of even your most polished society.'

'Indeed ?' I said; 'I had no idea that she was wealthy.'

'No, sir, probably not. Miss Van Rensselaer is a

ANN-YORK DALLY TRIBUTAL, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1881—TRUTHE PRIBER 5 1881—